

THE MCGILL DAILY

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Since 1911.

Wednesday, April 3, 1991

Political Science split down the Middle East

by Stephanie Conway

The political science department is divided over the decision to open a position in the department for an expert on Middle Eastern development.

The position has provoked opposition from a minority within the department, who claim the hiring process has been tainted. Others say these complaints are just a cover for political biases.

"A significant majority says it has nothing to do with procedure, and everything to do with ulterior motives," said a source in the department who wished not to be named.

A comparative development sub-committee decided to open the position in January for a middle-eastern position, after an unsuccessful two year search for a south-east asian expert.

Traditionally, similar decisions have gone unchallenged by the department. But in March, certain faculty demanded a department-wide vote.

The vote upheld the committee's decision. "The middle east was endorsed by the full department, and only then were procedural issues raised," said one source.

Those who object to the appointment say there are already too many Middle East specialists.

"We want to have a balance throughout regions. We are not lacking in middle eastern expertise," said a representative of the Political Science Students Association.

But other students point out that, at present, the department's only course in middle eastern development is taught by a visiting professor, Rex Brynen.

"All of the regular faculty are in international relations, none have any expertise in political development whatsoever," said one.

"There is a high undergrad demand, and there is a lack of coverage in this key strategic area," said another source, who wished to remain anonymous.

Another criticism being leveled at current procedures is that they favour a particular candidate, namely Rex Brynen.

Some have argued that Brynen, a Canadian, has an unfair advantage because immigration law dictates that hiring priority be given to qualified citizens.

"Those who argue that Canadian applicants have an unfair advantage are mostly either Americans, or Canadians who went to American schools. They have little or no respect for a Canadian PhD," said one graduate student.

Others suggest that, if anything, the process has been stacked against Brynen, who has done much of his research on the Palestine Libera-

tion Organization.

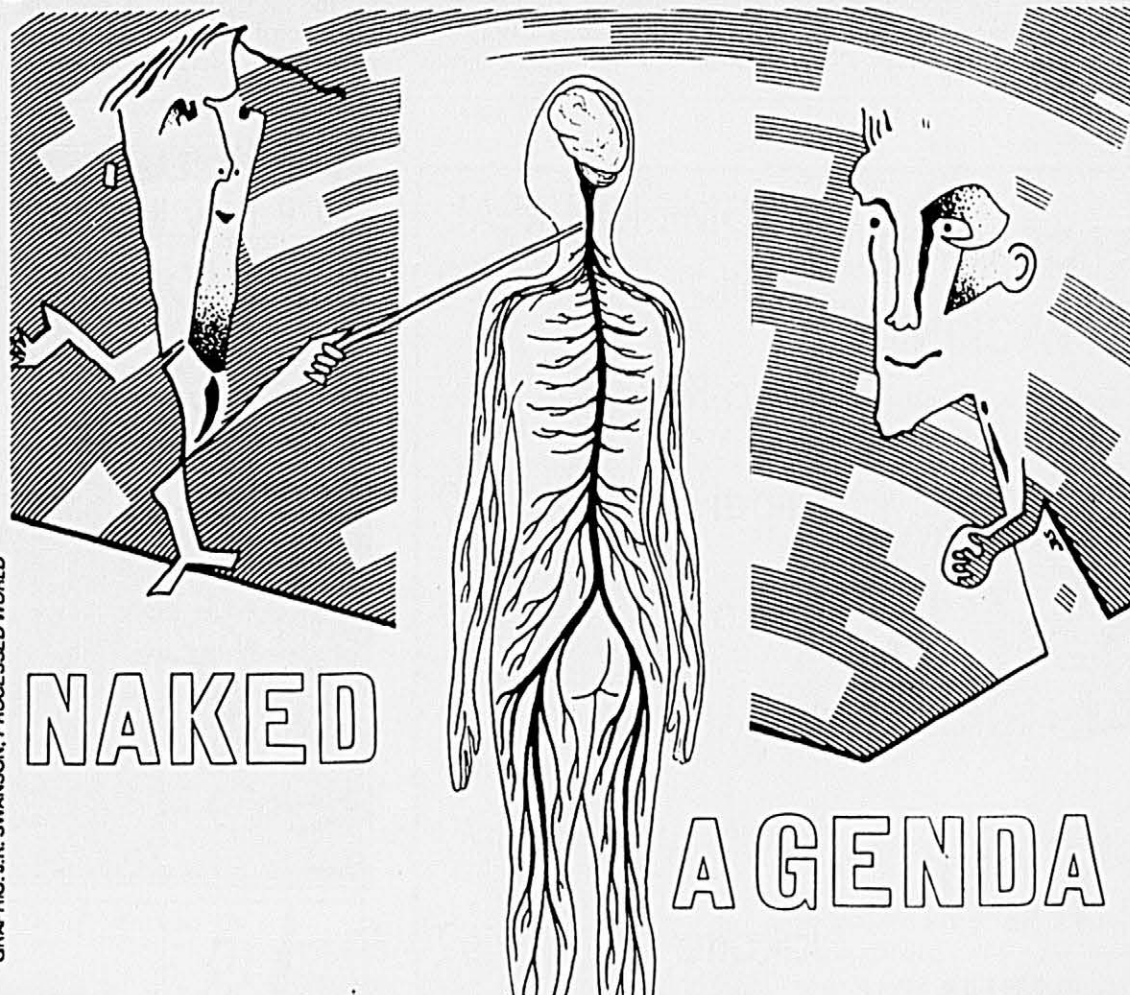
"Brynen is a very qualified applicant in middle eastern politics. He is also well-liked, has a great publishing record and is very open-minded in his approach to Arab politics," according to one political science student.

They also dismiss the charge that considering an internal applicant puts the department in a position of conflict-of-interest.

"It's not at all uncommon for the department to fill positions internally. I can cite any number of instances that would be considered conflict of interest by those standards. Besides, the real issue is qualification," said one student.

But the hiring process has since reached a stalemate in the appointing committee, made up of four professors, a graduate rep and an undergrad rep.

The *Daily* approached Brynen, as well as professors Christopher Manfredi, Filippo Sabetti, James Booth, Sam Noumoff, and Baldev Raj Nayar. None thought it appropriate to comment at this time.



Libertarians condemn B.C. council

by Michael Booth

VANCOUVER (CUP) — A student council's use of a lie detector on employees has civil libertarians in B.C. worried.

The test was used to investigate the disappearance of \$1000 from a campus arcade last March 6.

Dale Beyerstein is privacy and access to information director of the BC Civil Liberties Association.

ciation.

"The Civil Liberties Association's position on the polygraph is that it is an inaccurate device and no employee should agree to take a polygraph test in the workplace," Beyerstein said.

An employee of an arcade run by the University of British Columbia student council lost his regular shifts after failing a lie detector test conducted as part of an internal investigation.

The employee, who wished to remain anonymous,

maintains his innocence and said the test was faulty.

"The way it was being administered was that I could hear the tones and the higher the tone, the higher the stress. When I heard the tones I became more stressful," he said.

"It's all based on that one test. The only other person (who worked that night) passed the test and that is the only difference I know of between us.

Beyerstein said that the test, which measures galvanic skin response (sweating), is only one of four parts that make up a standard police polygraph test. In addition to measuring the conductivity produced by sweat, police also measure heart rate, breathing and blood pressure.

"There are two problems with this," said Beyerstein. "Just measuring the amount of sweat is not too reliable an indicator of stress to begin with and secondly, it is difficult to infer from stress levels whether the stress is caused by lying," Beyerstein said.

Student council general manager Charles Redden said, "If I believed that any person was guilty of stealing funds from the AMS (the student council), I would not hesitate to suspend them. We cannot risk the society's funds.

"We've passed the information on to the police," Redden said.

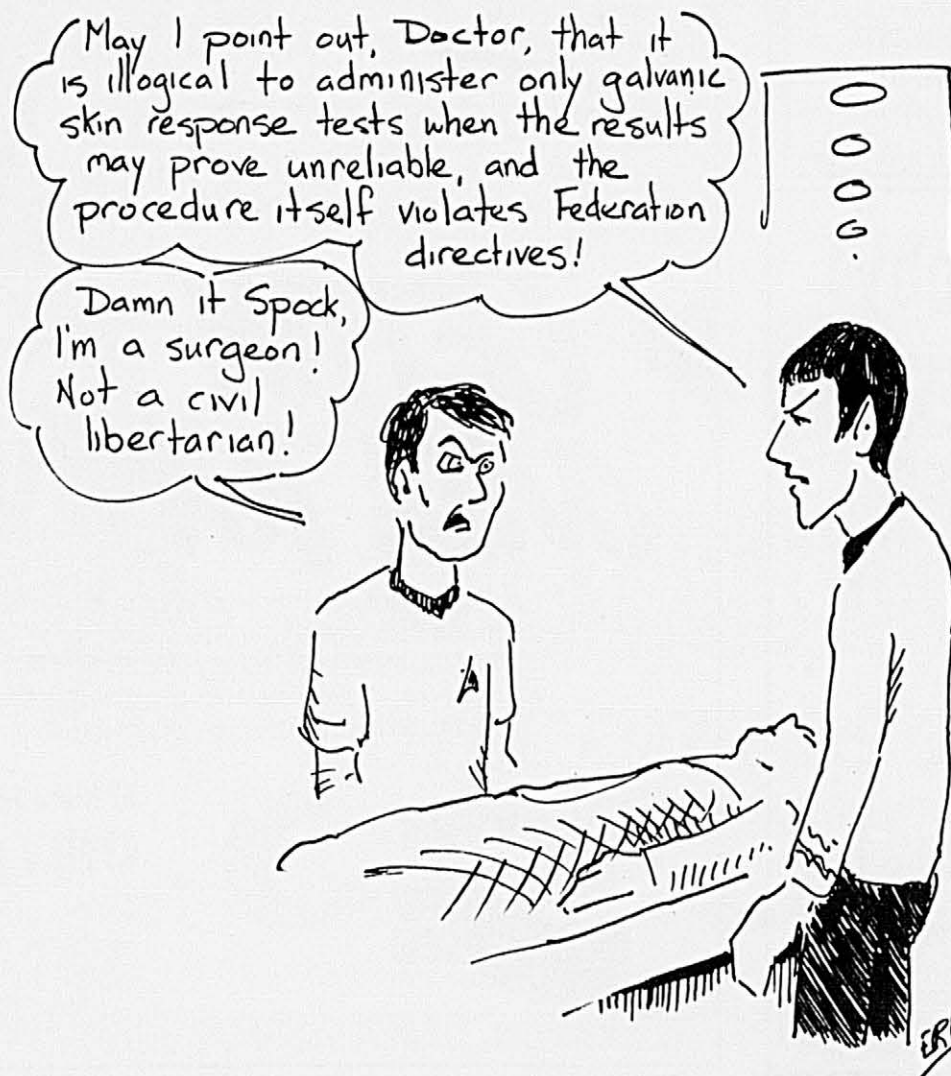
UBC Law professor Tony Hickling, however, said that employers do not have the power to suspend an employee.

"The basic rule of common law, with regards to an employee, is you can dismiss for cause or dismiss with reasonable notice.

"There is no implied power to suspend," Hickling said.

"A suspension without authority is a breach of contract. A person who is suspended in such a circumstance may treat it as tantamount to dismissal."

Beyerstein added that, "if the arcade employee thinks he was suspended wrongfully he can sue the AMS for wrongful dismissal."



DAILY GRAPHIC: ETHAN ALLEN

EVENTS

Wednesday 3 April

Volunteer for Garde Manger Pour Tous, a Montréal food bank. FREE. Info: Volunteer Bureau 398-6819. Union lobby, 3480 McTavish. All day.

Sinn Féin councillor Pat Rice will answer questions after the screening of "Irish Ways", the IRA version of what is going on in Northern Ireland. FREE. Info: 278-5018. Union 310,

3480 McTavish. 12h.

Discussion/support group for students from dysfunctional families. FREE. Info: Ed McKinley 398-6244 (6243). The Yellow Door, 3625 Aylmer. 14h30.

Talkin' Linguistics. U of Vienna's Wolfgang Dressler talks on "Morpho-pragmatics: Evidence from German, French, Italian and Japanese," a current issue in linguistic theory.

FREE. Bronfman 583. 16h15.

"Chernobyl: Five Years Later" is a presentation of the Ukrainian Students' Association and the Canadian Red Cross (Quebec). Panel discussion and a film: "Red and Black." FREE. Info: 931-7010. FDA Auditorium. 19h.

"The Roots of Social Democracy and the NDP Today" is what the International Socialists call today's meeting. FREE. Info: 284-6834. Union

B09/10, 3480 McTavish. 19h.

Canadian Celluloid. FilmSoc shows three NFB films: "The Last Days of Okak," "Waterloo Farmers" and "Monastery." FREE. Leacock 132. 19h30.

Does CanLit+McGill=McLit? The Scrivener presents Trevor Ferguson, John Glenday and Mark Abley reading recent poetry and fiction. FREE. Le Tycoon, 96 Sherbrooke West. 20h.

McGill Women's Chorale sings Morley, Scumann, Freedman and blues and gospel arrangements. FREE. Pollack Hall, 555 Sherbrooke West. 20h.

North American Studies Students Association elect their 91-92 executive and vote on constitutional amendments. FREE. PSSA Lounge. Call 937-3749 to find out when.

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Чернобыль Chernobyl

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Dr. W.E. Mushynski, McGill University
Department of Biochemistry
Mr. Daniel Masse
Canadian Red Cross Society, Quebec Division

Film: "Red & Black"

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Anthro students seek power sharing deal

by Susana Béjar

Anthropology students are taking a new power sharing deal to their department today for ratification.

Members of the Anthropology Students Association (ASA) say they want more involvement in their curriculum, as well as an institutionalized role in departmental decision-making.

voice in the department, a tremendous amount of frustration has built up," said ASA member Brian Schnarch.

"For example, last year, student interest in physical anthropology and Latin American content were essentially by-passed," he said.

ASA treasurer Rebecca Handford said the department does not guarantee a student voice in the department. To remedy this, the ASA is proposing a reform of the

department's Undergraduate Committee, which takes care of day to day administrative business.

Currently composed of four professors, including the chair, and four students, the reformers want an added student rep to co-chair the committee. Both chairs would have a vote at departmental meetings.

The proposal is actually a compromise from an earlier suggestion to give ASA reps votes in the department's business (similar to the structure in other departments). That suggestion was rejected in January.

"Right now, the Undergraduate Committee deals with details and makes recommendations on undergraduate matters. It basically acts as a mediating body between the ASA and the department," said Schnarch.

Handford has been acting co-chair of the Committee for nearly a month. She said the new deal is advantageous because it allows a division of labour between student and bureaucratic concerns.

With the new structure, the faculty chair will take care of professorial concerns, and the

student chair will address undergraduate concerns.

The ad hoc Undergraduate Committee's structure had never been formally written down. "That posed a problem, leading to all kinds of interpretations depending on whoever was in charge that year. This year's chair decided it shouldn't be a forum for student concerns," Handford said.

"There was a conflict in the Committee before, because it had two roles. It was supposed to take care of bureaucratic things like recommendations and requirements. Then it was also supposed to be the voice for student concerns," said Handford.

Another proposal to go before the department today is a task force, modelled after the Undergraduate Committee, whose role would be to re-assess the anthropology curriculum.

"It would attempt a complete overhaul, including things like required courses, program specifications, etc.," said Schnarch.

The still-embryonic task force would also suggest new mechanisms by which courses are chosen and content determined.

"Right now course choice basically works on two essential principles," said Schnarch, "professors' personal choice, and inertia."

Anthropology faculty could not be reached for comment on the ASA proposals. But Schnarch said the idea met with some resistance at first.

"Some people thought what we were asking for was for students to waltz in at the beginning of the semester and dictate to profs what they would be teaching. That's not what we meant at all," he said.

Handford said most profs are actually quite receptive to the idea of a forum for student criticisms of curriculum.

"When students have complaints about requirements, prerequisites, there's no open way for them to call attention to the problem."

"Right now all such complaints are confidential. We are trying to think up ways for students to have a pro-active role in the department's choice of courses. And I think professors are very open to the idea of students criticizing the curriculum," she said.

SENATE BRIEFS

Senators Oppose Fee Hikes

VP Planning and Computer Services François Tavenas told Senate last week that McGill's administration will oppose a rumoured fee increase for international students.

Tavenas is working on a paper that will present "as convincing a case as possible" to Québec's Minister of Higher Education, Lucienne Robillard.

Principal David Johnston said international student fees at McGill are the highest in Canada. He urged Senate to "mount powerful rational arguments with a degree of urgency" against the increase.

Details of the increase will not be made public until Québec's budget is unveiled next month.

Grads one step closer

Senate voted unanimously to accept the Students' Society-Post Graduate Students' Society letter of agreement passed in last month's student referendum.

VP Academic Sam Freedman welcomed the agreement, calling it a "demonstration of maturity."

Representatives of PGSS, an incorporated legal body, and SSMU, a fledgling band of disorganised slum lords, basked in the compliment.

Priorities taken to task

Amendments to the Task Force on Priorities continued last week, as senators fixed what they saw as flaws in McGill's long term vision.

The Senate Committee on Women introduced several successful amendments to the report giving priority to the creation of an equity office on campus.

"It is tremendously difficult to work on an ad hoc basis. There is good will, but there simply aren't enough resources available at this time," said Employment Equity Coordinator, Honora Shaughnessy, speaking in favour of the motion.

A recommendation will be made to give the equity office a budget and staff, including a director who will report directly to the Principal.

Pierre Bélanger, Dean of Engineering, presented an amendment to a task force suggestion that all McGill students be required to own personal computers. Bélanger asked that McGill improve its computer laboratories and give students assistance if they must purchase their own equipment.

Student senators were strongly in favour of the new proposal but stressed the ever-increasing financial burden placed on students. Some administrators said McGill lacks the resources to help students. The motion still passed.

Senate is an administrative body of McGill's administration. They take care of things like curriculum, libraries, hiring policies etc. and are subject to the authority of the Board of Governors. They meet bi-weekly.

Cashing in at the lease bank

by Stephanie Conway

Unknowingly, students have been contributing to the problem of spiraling rents in Montréal. But now, a new 'lease bank' may help to solve this problem.

"The fact is that students move more frequently than most tenants," said Daron Westman, coordinator of the Québec PIRG Housing Project.

Westman said the high apartment turnover provides an ideal opportunity for landlords to increase rents for each new tenant - in many cases, another student.

"Students, who are often living on their own for the first time, or living in Montréal for the first time, may accept a higher rent than they should. This makes the situation worse," said Westman.

According to the housing law in Québec, landlords are required to provide a new tenant with notice of



the lowest rent paid for their dwelling during the preceding twelve months. Tenants are allowed to contest their rent at the Rental Board (Régie du logement) within ten days of notice if they feel the increase over the previous year is excessive.

Not surprisingly, landlords often fail to provide this notice. Tenants then have two months to contest their rent.

Gary Saxe, community organizer for the Québec PIRG Housing

Project, points out that "the major problem for tenants who want to contest their rent is proving what the previous tenant paid."

"A comprehensive lease bank will solve that problem," said Saxe.

The concept behind the lease bank is simple, according to Adam Lewinberg, Québec PIRG Board member.

Students can bring a copy of their lease or cancelled rent cheque to be put in a central file. In the fall, when students sign a lease for the academic year, they can refer to the previous years file, and if necessary, prove the cost of rent on the previous lease.

McGill students can photocopy leases or rent cheques at the SSMU front desk in the Union Building. Leave the copy at the \$24,000 Information Kiosk or the Legal Information Clinic, in the Union Building. For more information, call Québec PIRG at 398-7432.



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THE MCGILL DAILY

COMMENT

Back to the Dark Ages

Canada's Supreme court is actually, seriously, considering whether a rape victim's sexual past is relevant in court.

The panel of Supreme Court judges is currently split over a challenge by two alleged Ontario rapists who would like to see Canada's 'shield law' overturned.

What year is this?

The shield law was heralded by women's rights advocates in 1983 as a progressive step away from the kind of thinking that says a woman's private life makes her more or less vulnerable to assault.

Now, if the law is overturned, we could expect to see a return to the rigorous cross-examination of victims the shield law was meant to prevent. And once again, lawyers will play on the still-entrenched notion that somehow a woman who has been sexually active has less integrity and is more likely to provoke attack.

Maybe they'll also dig up the old claim that a sexually active woman is somehow less traumatized by sexual assault.

And, probably, acquaintance and date rape will have an even tougher time in court than they do now.

Sex is about having choices.

Sex without choice is sexual assault. And it should be absolutely clear that sexual assault has nothing to do with who, what, when, where, why or how someone CHOSE to have sex in the past.

Kathleen Hickey

HYDE PARK

Why FEUQ won't do

Opinion submitted by Michael Temelini.

Why is it that such an extraordinary amount of time has been spent this year fighting Québec's newest student federation, FEUQ?

SSMU executives would like us to believe that the opposition to FEUQ derived from a dispute with McGill graduate students. What they fail to admit is that many students across Québec are also worried.

Many Québec students oppose FEUQ because of the damage it will do to the student movement and because of their regressive policies.

With the emergence of FEUQ at the Université de Montréal and at McGill, many students across the country and across the province fear the gains made by students in Québec in the last twenty years will be jeopardized.

The regressiveness of FEUQ is apparent in their failure to effectively speak out on important issues, but most clearly evident in their statement of principles, *A New Partnership*, proposing students align themselves with government and business.

Under the pretence of moderation, the "new partnership" disguises an attempt by FEUQ to de-politicize the student movement. This was confirmed by FAECUM member Patrick Minotti who said FEUQ likes McGill because we tend to de-emphasize political issues. How pathetic. FEUQ wants McGill because we don't care about political issues either.

FEUQ's position in favour of tuition runs contrary to every major student group in the country including l'ANEEQ, the Québec Grad Association, the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) the National Graduate Council, the Ontario Federation of Students and the British Columbia component of the CFS.

And so at a time when Canada's social programs are being cut and threatened by the introduction of user-fees and reductions in transfer payments, FEUQ has remained virtually speechless.

And worse, by suggesting that students team-up with the government rather than critically considering alternatives, FEUQ is accepting the erosion of our post-secondary system.

We have yet to hear a single word from FEUQ on the Quebec government's controversial welfare laws, on the proposed changes to the Health care system, and on Quebec's native policy. FEUQ has not spoken out against the James Bay Hydroelectric project, nor has FEUQ condemned the excessive use of force used against the Mohawks last summer.

Here in Québec, our glorious FEUQ is telling students not to worry and be happy and don't be too political, don't question.

That's why we are opposed to FEUQ. This is no time for Québec students to be making partnerships with a government intent on destroying the environment to provide power for aluminum smelters, using force against native peoples, introducing absurd increases in international student fees and dismantling a whole network of social programs carefully crafted since the quiet revolution.

This is definitely not the time to be de-politicized. And it is definitely not the time to be supporting FEUQ.

Serious and rational

To the Daily:

On Thursday, March 7, a panel discussion on media coverage during the Gulf War was held in Leacock 232. The panel featured Israeli journalist, Daniel Ben Simon of Davar, as well as a representative of Concordia's *Link*, and a representative of the *McGill Daily*. The discussion, meant to be a forum for the exchange of different viewpoints, fizzled when the third speaker, Carl Wilson of the *Daily*, adopted a comedic tone throughout his speech.

When I spoke later with Wilson, he justified his conduct by telling me that he finds the subject "funny" and that, consequently, he had no choice but to use a comedic tone. Funny how none other than Carl Wilson himself managed to contribute to the media's coverage of the war by producing a serious article in the *Daily* on the subject of the Gulf War only the day before. Yet, on the following day, Carl Wilson was unable to find anything serious to say.

So when Wilson told me that he could speak only in a comedic tone because he found the subject could not be taken seriously, he was lying. In light of this, I now know that Wilson's use of a comedic tone was not the only tone he could have used; it was the one he consciously chose to use.

And it is for this reason that I feel quite embarrassed for Wilson. While Daniel Ben Simon, the Israeli journalist, had come to exchange viewpoints with university students, he was met, instead, by someone who was unable to address the issue in a serious and rational manner. And the audience, who had also come to participate in a serious discussion, was left feeling frustrated. I am perplexed as to why the *Daily* allowed Wilson to represent itself at this discussion.

Eyal David Bitton
BA U3

Ed. note: Bitton misquotes and misrepresents Wilson's presentation and their subsequent conversation. Wilson did not tell Bitton he found the Gulf War "funny"; he said the media coverage of the war has mostly been farcical. Finally, Wilson freely acknowledges his tone was chosen. Relax, Eyal.

Biblical Proportions

To the Daily:

Here's one for the books. In his March 7 article, Alex Roslin cited two people—that's two people—who criticized the scheduled visit to Ottawa by Yitzhak Shamir and then titled the article "Shamir visit sparks outrage".

Remarkable sense of proportion, Alex. If you think that two people's criticisms amount to an outrage and warrant an article discussing it, what would you write concerning the support shown by the several hundred people who attend the speech? A book entitled *Super-Galactical Support for Shamir Reaches Biblical Proportions*?

And here's one more point that may prove very revealing: Shamir's trip was cancelled. In fact, Shamir's visit was cancelled about 2 weeks before Roslin's article was published. But, despite the fact that Shamir wasn't even coming, Roslin's article protesting Shamir's visit was printed.

I take it the 'juicy stuff' on Shamir was just too good to pass up, huh? I guess the criticisms of Shamir's visit were more important to the *Daily* than the insignificant fact that there actually was no such visit.

Or was the printing of this article not so maliciously motivated? After all, it may simply be a result of poor reporting. It is altogether possible that five days before Shamir's scheduled visit, the *Daily* was ignorant of the fact that there really was no visit. They simply may not have bothered to check to see if Shamir was actually coming.

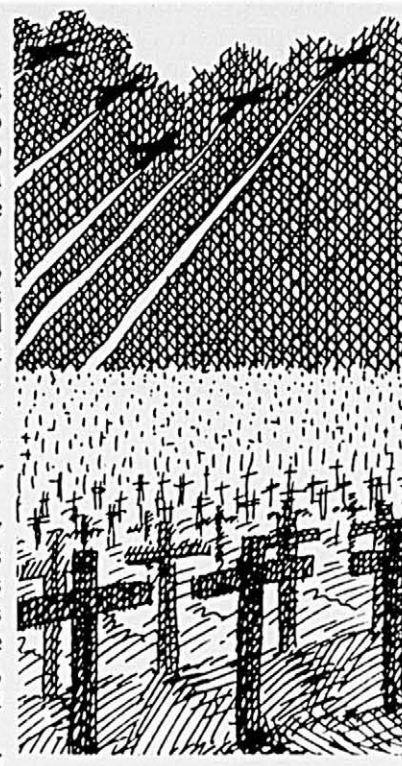
Jennifer Eisen
BA U1

Ed. note: Who do you know that we don't know? On March 8, two days after the Shamir article ran (on March sixth), Ottawa announced that Shamir might stay home to greet James Baker.

Frat fallout

To the Daily:

The current anti-fraternity hysteria is just a little bit out of control. We live in the Lambda Chi Alpha frat house, but are not associated with the fraternity. Over the past week we have been subject to some pretty awful treatment. We have received everything from dirty



looks and name calling when we enter the front door, to threatening phone calls.

If the suspect in the recent rape case had been black would you instantly hate all Blacks, if he had been a Native would you instantly hate all Mohawks? How can you possibly justify calling anyone who walks through a particular door on campus a rapist? We don't appreciate being caught in the fallout of your unfair discrimination.

Richard Pocklington, U2 Science
Tony Conti, U2 Arts

Turn, turn, turn

To the Daily:

Cynthia Lazar, of McGill's Students Taking Action to Network Against Discrimination (STAND), believes that "Anti-Semitism fluctuates naturally along with everything else, it goes in cycles..." (*Daily*, Monday, March 18, 1991, p.1). While I believe that Ms. Lazar is committed to fighting racism, I must question her use of language.

What exactly is "everything else"? The seasons? Harvests? Menstruation? Ms. Lazar surely knows that there is nothing "natural" about anti-Semitism or any other form of racism. Describing it as "natural", something that "goes in cycles", implies a certain acceptance of this scourge, and attributes a logic to racism which simply does not exist.

Anti-Semitism is indeed on the rise in Montréal, as it is in France, Poland, the Soviet Union, and other parts of the world. Last Thursday's neo-Nazi rampage along McTavish is proof of this. Those of us, like members of STAND, who are opposed to racism in all its forms much never accept any argument which assumes that hatred is a natural part of human interaction.

We can take real action against discrimination, if at the same time we work to counteract years of socialization to rid ourselves of our own prejudices. This is a difficult process, but it is necessary if we are to make any progress.

Rhonda Mawhood
MA 2Ban a danger sign



The DAILY no longer exists. As of today, B-03 has become the nineteenth province of Iraq...uh...of the SSMU!"

DAILY GRAPHIC: ETHAN ALLEN

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It's an Irish thing...

Northern Ireland is back in the news. Britain announced last week that talks between feuding factions will begin soon in an attempt to find a long-term solution to the conflict. But the radical nationalist party, Sinn Fein, was not invited.

Pat Rice is a Sinn Fein councillor for Lisburn, a town west of Belfast, and party spokesperson on education. Rice talked with the *Daily* about Sinn Fein, the history of discrimination in Northern Ireland, and the latest British attempt to impose a solution on the Irish.

by Wayne Hiltz

Daily: What is the relationship between Sinn Fein and the Irish Republican Army?

Pat Rice: There's a press shorthand that refers to Sinn Fein as the political wing of the IRA. I would reject that kind of shorthand. Sinn Fein is a legal political party that has existed since 1905. We elected an MP for West Belfast to the British Parliament and five MPs to a regional parliament during the mid-1980s where we were abstentionist. But we are not abstentionist in the local councils where we have many members.

Since we first participated in elections in 1981, we have received about 35 per cent of the Nationalist or Catholic vote with a highwater mark of 43 per cent.

Are there any restrictions placed upon Sinn Fein councillors?

Although we are a legal party and have established rights, we are censored and literally not allowed to be interviewed on radio or television on Sinn Fein politics. We're also subject to a lot more harassment in a way that other politicians are not. The police are quite clear that they represent the Protestant community. I am their enemy and therefore I'll be harassed, I'll be stopped, I'll be questioned, and I'll be held.

I've been assaulted a number of times in the chamber by other councillors—but more often by their bullyboys—and I've ended up in hospital on occasion. The police are there but they'll see that you get a good kicking before they intervene.

When I go to meetings, I go in an armoured car. I wear a bullet-proof jacket and my house has an iron gate and a camera at the door. And I'm just a councillor and not one of the prime targets. But any one of us is potentially targeted in a Loyalist (Protestant) area.

What is the purpose of your trip to Canada? Is it to lobby the public and politicians?

I'll be meeting trade unionists, politicians, and speaking with newspaper and radio people. Mostly, I'll be talking about the issue of employment because discrimination is obviously an issue of immediate importance to my community.

In particular, we're interested in exerting pressure through the unions and through lobbying to get companies to adopt the MacBride principles. (Sean MacBride, a founder of Amnesty International, established principles aimed at ending job discrimination through pressure on foreign investors in Northern Ireland).

For example, we're targeting Bombardier because they've bought the Short Brothers Aircraft factory in Belfast which has 11 per cent Catholic workers in an area that is 30 per cent Catholic. Of course, they inherited the situation but the Nationalist community is not going to wait another 30 years to end discrimination.

Bombardier has said that their aim is to eventually arrive at 25 per cent Catholic workers. We say that's not enough given that the area is 30 per cent Catholic. But the time-scale is totally unsatisfactory. We need it

quickly. They're trying to partially solve it by a kind of slight of hand.

Could you give a brief background to the issue of discrimination in Northern Ireland?

The North was never potentially a stable entity. Partition in 1920 was a decision taken against the democratically-expressed will of 80 per cent of the Irish people. The six counties in the northeast had a Nationalist or Catholic minority of 40 per cent.

With Catholics having a higher birth rate, it was quite clear to the Unionists, or Protestants, that they would have to discriminate against Catholics so that they would emigrate. Even today the emigration rate is twice what it is for Protestants. And that was the object of the exercise since that 40 per cent minority was eventually going to become a majority.

The unemployment rate among Catholics is two-and-a-half times what it is among Protestants. A book that just came out gives the latest figures and shows that discrimination goes through every major industry, marketing boards, the fire service, banks and insurance companies.

And even the universities, although you would expect that serene academic cloisters might be an exception. For example, 85 or 90 per cent of those working or teaching at the University of Ulster in Belfast are Protestant whereas 50.5 per cent of students are Catholics.

Did the British government do anything about this situation?

No, for 50 years it tolerated the discrimination and didn't interfere in any way until the students took to the streets in 1969 and started the civil rights movement. It was a system that refused to be reformed. Peaceful protestors were beaten off the streets by the police and in January 1972 British troops killed 14 demonstrators. (Britain took over direct rule of Northern Ireland on March 30, 1972).

We've had about 15 years of anti-discrimination legislation, but none of it has had teeth. The laws do little to really end discrimination and when tested in the courts are even found not to be legal. The net result is that discrimination continues unabated. The real purpose of the laws was to take Northern Ireland off the international agenda, to try to persuade the world that they were doing something about it.

Concerning the question of unity with Ireland, what is the position of your rival for the Catholic vote, the Social Democratic and Labour Party, and what are your criticisms of that position?

The SDLP's position is that unity can only come with the consent of the Protestants in the North. They also argue that unity must come through stages and with power-sharing in the North.

Sinn Fein refers to that as the unity veto. Why should a national minority of 20 per cent be allowed to decide that a part of Ireland isn't Ireland? A national minority has no right to a veto on self-determination for the Irish



DAILY PHOTO: KATERINA CIZEK

Sinn Fein councillor Pat Rice

people. That goes against a UN declaration about partition in a post-colonial or decolonization situation. International law is on our side.

The SDLP also talks about healing wounds as though each community is equally to blame. We don't accept that and I don't see any stability coming from that. One community has discriminated and the other has suffered the discrimination.

At the moment there are talks about talks.

These are the talks between the rival factions in Northern Ireland just announced last week?

Yes, that's right.

Are you optimistic that these talks will succeed?

No, it's unlikely that they'll succeed in, say, British terms. The British have called the talks and are intent on another internal solution, a solution under Britain. The Democratic Unionist Party under (Reverend Ian) Paisley want a return to a regional parliament with as much power as they can possibly get. The Ulster Unionist Party wants integration with Britain—that the six counties will be the same as Yorkshire or Lancashire in England. And the SDLP want power-sharing in a devolved assembly.

Do you think that the SDLP will be able to get a good deal for the Catholic minority?

I think that it's unlikely. But, in fact, the British would be happy with power-sharing. Then they could buy off a section of the Catholic middle class which is what the SDLP represents. It's a fairly conservative Catholic party in spite of its name. At best, it's in the middle of the political spectrum.

The SDLP seeks a certain amount of patronage power, to get a certain number of their people into jobs. There has been some little movement at that level. But it's not

going to be something that will affect the Catholic working classes in any way.

It's a moment when the Catholic middle classes can get some benefit. The British reckon they only need to buy off some of them to make resistance unviable.

Is it your choice not to be included in the upcoming talks or is it Britain which has excluded Sinn Fein?

It is the British who excluded us. We would certainly be eager to take part in the talks and state our case, but we are excluded.

What is the British government's main reason for these talks?

With European political unification coming in 1992, there's pressure from Brussels and Strasbourg for a solution. There are two points of conflict above all within the European Community—the Basque country in the north of Spain and Northern Ireland—that they're pushing to finally solve. So I see pressure there to try and bring about a solution but I don't think that this is it.

What is the motivation behind this pressure?

Obviously, it's a disadvantage economically, in terms of political stability and in terms of image, that there's armed conflict happening within their borders.

So how does Sinn Fein propose to bring about a solution?

The only just solution is an Irish solution in Ireland. That Britain must declare its intention to withdraw and withdraw within the life of a single Parliament and not within 20 years. That they should disarm those who they have armed.

We would then advocate the setting up of a constitutional conference of all political parties—including the Unionists—to work out a solution, without British interference, among Irish people for a future Ireland.



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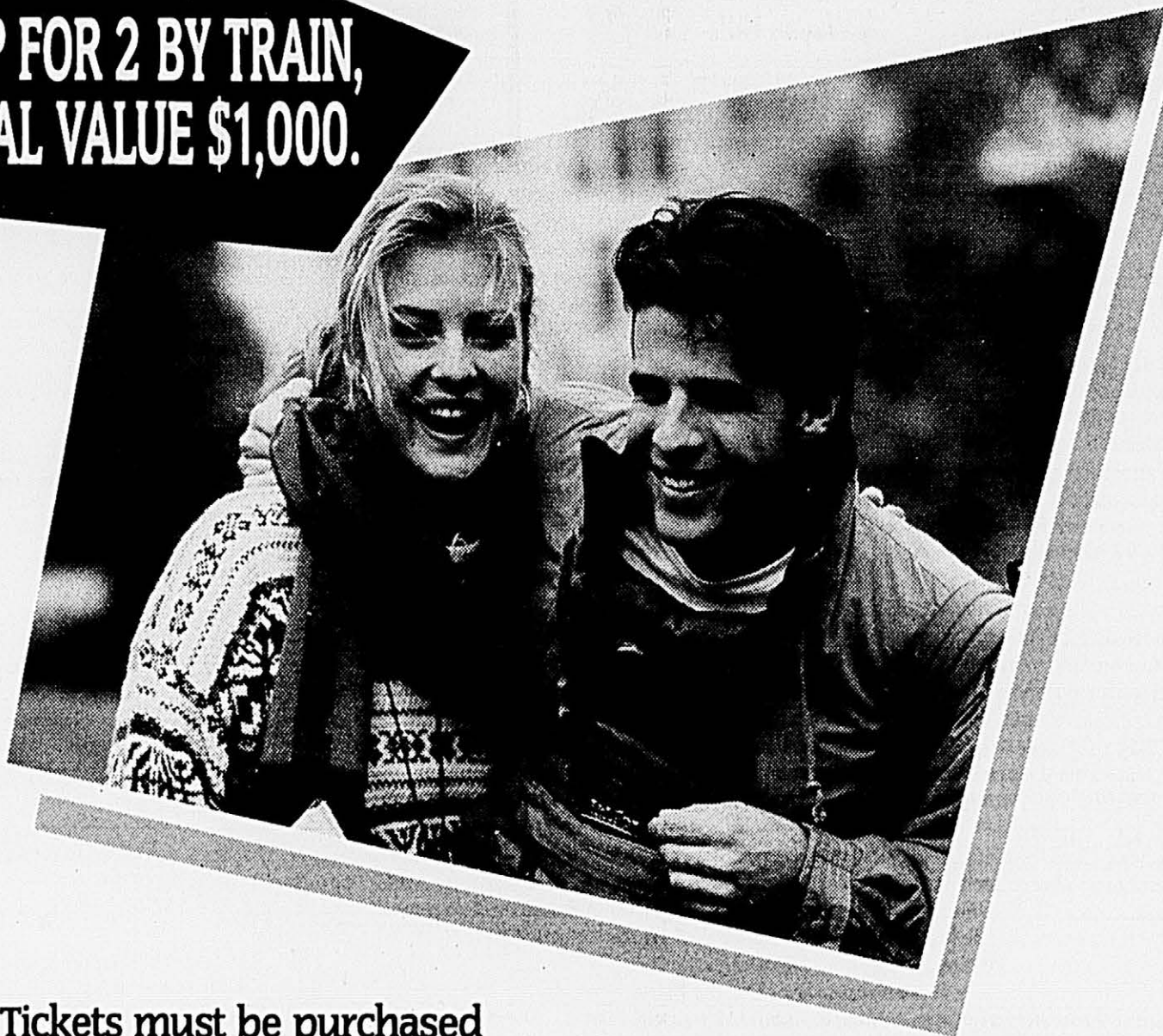
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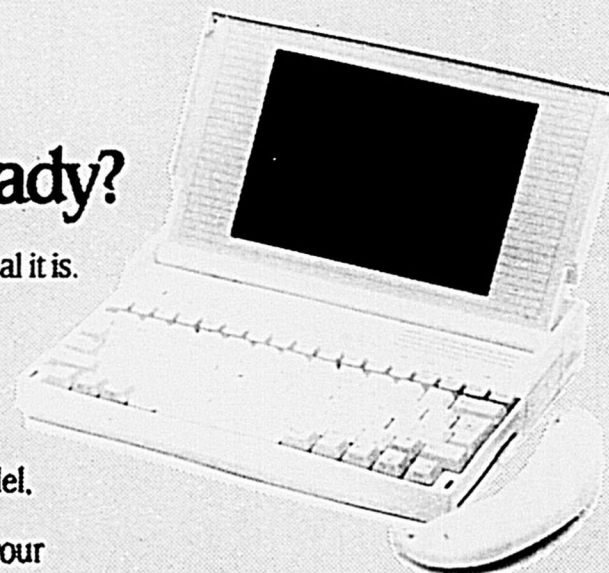
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